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FROM: Accra - CORRECTED PAGE 1

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 45, August 1, 6 p.m.

DEPARTMENT POUCH LONDON, CAIRO, MONROVIA;

Today I had my first formal talk with PM since his return from London last week. He informed me as follows: (1) There was much work for him to do. Five months after political independence many people are impatient for economic improvements which will require time. He still regarded Volta River project as most promising hope for economic progress and was much disappointed by failure of Slagle to produce. But he thought Slagle's efforts had created or increased interest among certain American companies which are now nibbling at this opportunity for investment. He admits Volta is huge project which no one company or one government might wish to finance but he has received encouragement that British and Canadian governments might help if private enterprise should wish to undertake project. By implication he expressed hope that US Government might help to some extent if American private enterprise should undertake project alone or in conjunction with British and Canadian companies which would have backing of their respective governments.

(2) In London he had talked with representatives of all countries except Egypt that had been invited to African conference. Ghana High Commissioner in London now trying arrange new date which probably will not be before January at earliest. He received letter two days ago from Nasser agreeing to the conference. He was emphatic that no additional countries or dependent areas would be invited and held to this despite some mild remarks by me which were based on Department's CA-308 of July 10.

(3) Finance Minister Gbedemah will visit London and later attend International Bank meeting in Washington. After that Gbedemah will attend Finance Minister's meeting in Ottawa, being away from Ghana until October. As PM does not wish be away during Gbedemah's absence, PM cannot attend opening of UN General Assembly but hopes to go for few days in October. He appreciates our position about a state visit at this time but does hope to visit Washington for day or two.

(4) After Washington he may return to Ghana via India but he has no plans

Correction made by RM/R

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no plans at present about visiting USSR.

(5) Pending outcome of some further efforts to get Volta projects started, government will not undertake any other major developmental project.

Embassy comments: Conversation was cordial and fairly intimate. PM indicated in several ways he is having his ups and downs, as wzs to be expected, but felt sure everything would work out all right and especially if Volta River project could be started or some smaller and unrelated projects could be put in hand as substitute for what people want to see in way of economic progress.

He went to some length to emphasize that African conference would be a combined effort of participants and that he himself had no desire to assume any great role of leader beyond getting conference together. In this connection I felt he probably had in mind Liberian President's independence day speech last week which was publicized here.

In my opinion most significant part of conversation was complete lack of initiative by PM to discuss American aid. Aside from general remarks about Volta, he did not take advantage of several openings I gave him to say anything about aid from US. This and what Gbedemah has said or has failed to say to me in past makes me believe government will wait several more months, hoping for success in getting Volta started, before giving any very serious consideration to alternative projects which might result eventually in Ghana seeking aid from US. In these circumstances I see no need to establish ICA mission here in near future.

Reference item (1) Horace Bond and ex-Senator Duff arrived Accra four days ago. They spent two hours at Embassy for general briefing. They did not reveal purpose their visit but questions they asked plus guarded reference by PM today leads me believe they represent or hope to interest Anaconda Copper Company in Volta project.

FLAKE

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